

- May 7 & 8, 1955. Goodwill came but took only one ice box. B cleaned out safe; threw away jars, burned Schraffts boxes; found huge Haviland platter and three demi tasse cups and saucers. D. burned dried vines and shrubs with slight cry of alarm from nabor Salmon; developed theory Mayan culture overrun with honeysuckle & forsythia. B transplanted phlox to one bed near Honey's grave; tore out much lily of valley; revealing quite a bed of roses. D. almost completed framing windows on South side second storey; transplanted young oak tree; discovered wisteria climbing in trees in two places. Columbine and bleeding heart blossomed; iris budded.
- May 14 & 15, 1955 Goodwill finally came with empty trucks and took 1 icebox, 3 trunks, 1 bed & mattress, 1 divan, 1 dresser. D. started on pantry floor and by Sunday night had it more than half done. Although doing excellent job, protested when I insisted building for posterity. Subsequently made joking remarks about posterity from time to time. In process he had open wood storage closet against which Indian trough rested. Indian trough tumbled into shallow ground beneath pantry floor level. Birds discovered new bath and drink pan. Definitely took turns. One would wait picking in grass until his predecessor had finished. Small fry juvenile delinquents came by on Saturday with evil in their eyes. Obviously came from neighborhood. At first very challenging, brash, surly. Then remarked oldest house in Newark and I a school teacher. When I had given them correct information on these two points plus denial G. Washington had anything to do with the place, the leader decided to go and the others followed. Sunday two older teen agers were walking up on the lawn with intent when they saw me and got back in the road. Vacuumed upstairs hall and great-grandfather's folding table at head of stairs in place of chaise longue. Looked far more sumptuous than it ever did at 32. Plucked at paper on sundry walks; fairly well cleaned bathroom walls and harried paint and plaster on kitchen ceiling again with good results.
- May 17, 1955. Building inspector Madera and mason contractors Pirello and Guiliano. Nicknamed Giuliano "Plast" since he kept using that word instead of plaster. Went through house thoroughly except for attics with Madera and again with him and masons. They gave much advice about all renovation although their job was solely front wall.
- May 18, 1955 In early evening when peace and quiet was broken only by band practice in park, suddenly resounding thud in front part of house right in middle of horrendous rendition of DAVEY CROCKETT. Yard aquare piece inch thick of plaster in front parlor, finally dried out had apparently reacted to vibration and came down at that particular moment.
- Sunday May 15, 1955 Deanie and husband visited for tour, obviously felt place was quite hopeless. Thursday May 19, 1955 Liz Arlæss came on invitation, planned how she would act uninformed when other friends found out at some much later date.
- May 21 & 22, 1955 Paid second installment on mortgage. Cleaned out blackberry patch and burned clippings toether with leftover cullings from garden. Of all cars for the horseshoe pits, none parked on side of house. D finished pantry floor, started on back cellar door; jacked up rear of house under kitchen. Female cardinal building nest with grape vine trimmings. Woodpecker hammered out nest in dead limb. D installed new edition window sashes. Birds discovered relocated Indian trough and used as if always there.
- May 26, 1955 Scavenger Mauriello took look at ashes in back basement and advised it would cost \$96 to get them out of there. Advised I might better terrace front lawn with them and cover with top soil.
- May 27, 1955, Friday. Received letters re Old Road address.
- May 28 Mowed lawn. D jacked up front of house in preparation for wall renewal.
- May 29, 1955 Cleaned out back bedroom. D spaded up vegetable garden. Soil compressed by bull dozer full of stones and wisteria roots. D jacked up back corner of house.

May 30, 1955 Planted tomato and zinnia sets and 1 row of beans. Warblers, cat birds, blue birds, cardinals, robins, thrush & woodpecker. Robin built in maple tree. Gang of young juvenile delinquents made sundry maneuvers to carry off lumber from new house building in back. D fixed toilet so it would flush. Mrs. Herbst advised neighbors earlier had thought old house an eyesore but when it was known I had bought it they all said wished they had.

Tuesday, May 31, 1955. Cloudburst results in cascade of water from DeGraw end, coursing through newly spaded garden, along route of earlier trenching and pouring ythrough foundation holes into cellar. Visions of flooded kitchen. Actually almost disappeared during day despite new downpour at noon except for furnace pit which was filled to brim and that gradually evaporated.

Wednesday, June 1, 1955 PO Jacobs advised wouldn't honor Old Road address until city made official designation through street sign and/or notice to them so maps could be changed.

Thursday, June 2, 1955. Chief Analyst Burnett said just leave street sign to him. He would tell City Engineer Cyr to change sign at Elwood to Old Road and if it weren't done in two weeks to let him know.

Saturday and Sunday

June 4 & 5, 1955 Gave pantry floor two coats varnish. Installed ten new shades, taking out more tacks and putting in temporary window paned than actually putting up shades. Decided sisters were so right in using 1" adhesive instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ " to hold window panes ~~xxx~~ without aid of putty. The ones I had put in with $\frac{1}{2}$ " kept coming out. Cut roses and observed newer blossoms were bright red in contrast to earlier sickly mauve. D stabilized foundation around kitchen and started re-establishment of patio using cinders for fill. Received plaintive letter from Public Service about meter reading. D and I decided one trouble was we worked hard and results only looked like should have in first place.

Saturday & Sunday

June 11 & 12, 1955 Betty Hard came for week-end. Delphinium in full flower. During week had put on another ~~xxxxx~~ coat of varnish and applied two coats wax on pantry floor. So D scraped old table which had been rescued from pantry and reinstalled, making very pleasant small dining area. Charles Topping had apparently worked out on this table with brace and bit and nail set. CT initials decorated one end; sundry uniform holes around edges. D went by #32 and found two cars parked on flower garden; garage windows completely broken out. D moved most of tools into rear parlor from kitchen and dining-room. So now kitchen and pantry looked quite presentable. Between downpours D did more work on patio and back hall entrance stones, tore out seringa bush near Dutch oven. Planted vegetable garden. Beans were up two inches. Betty doubted rabbits but baby bunny appeared Sunday a.m. to convince her; left beans alone.

Monday, June 13, 1955. Had invited Jeanette and Ethel but only Ethel could come. During evening man appeared, asked where my mother was, didn't I remember him? He had client who wanted to buy the house. When I said I was new owner he beat hasty retreat as he remarked just put bricks all around and be good looking house; also inquired if I needed any mortgage money.

Friday, June 17, 1955 Bernice and Peggie came; didn't see how I had kept secret two months. Quantity of solidified soot and dirt had fallen out of kitchen fireplace onto floor during day. Burnett reported city hadn't even started printing sign; call him in another two weeks if not up.

Saturday & Sunday

June 16 & 19, 1955 Mowed lawn second time. D pulled tall grasses. I weeded flower garden. Radishes appeared. D set more kitchen patio. Another downpour Sunday night. Columbine bloomed again. Brown thrasher visited. D organized some of wood pushed over by bull dozer.

Monday, June 20, 1955 Pierrel & Co tore down front wall and corner. Building inspector Madera came with boss who had more understanding of needs than he. Madera under disadvantage made many wisecracks, fantasy. Planted wild flower & zinnia seeds and more beans; and hoed rose garden. Pulled a few of the tall grasses at curb.

Tuesday, June 21, 1955 I antagonized Plast and Pirrelloo with suggestions. Plast finally told me he knew his business.

Thursday, June 23, 1955. Plast consistently made contemptuous remarks about people who wouldn't pay for five stones laid a day, & sneered when I insisted on good workmanship; said would last fifty years and did I expect to be alive. I finally got it into his head that this building should last for another 200 and that this was not brick veneer he was working with but stone. Uncle Plast kept harrying me about repair of chimneys which I kept assuring him would have to come later. Watching Pirrello & Guiliano to see they didn't cheat on time and used big stones without chopping was beginning to wear on my nerves. Plast insisted on tearing down end front wall, not having made much of start on side front. D had labored night before putting shoring for roof on far side. I had some difficulty convincing him to start at bulge where it was easiest to tear down. He found fireplace had big hole which delighted him, asked to have building inspector Madera come around. Plast had been so eager to tear down the wall that he had torn down much more than necessary since remaining wall was obviously stable although stones could easily be picked off one by one because of type of lime filling which had been used originally. The exposed cavity revealed that the bulge had started many years ago and the rear parlor had been made smaller by an inner wall with fireplace. This most recent fireplace was only one of the five so badly deteriorated.

Gas meter reader appeared at noon. I intercepted him to try to get change of address. My mention of Mr. Zahner set him off. Whereupon he relieved himself of his opinion of both Mr. Zahner and Miss Edith. He agreed to do what he could about the address but averred that in his 26 years with the Public Service he hadn't been able to do much with people in the office.

Building inspector Madera showed up at 3:45 exhausted with heat and walking. My offer of iced tea launched discussion on politics, civil service, mental health, marriage, education, et al. His sole recommendation about fire place was whatever D advised was all right with him. I was so please at this license from building department I cut roses which had been bought in plant at super market in May.

Friday, June 24, 1955. Grey day promising intermittent drizzle. I phoned Pirello early suggesting he not come because of weather. He wanted to come anyway. The four of them came and spent two hours getting one window partially back in place with considerable destruction of wood and stones in the process. They seemed to have no aptitude at all for easing it in by feel. I finally convinced them the weather was too inclement and they would spend too much time sitting around at my expense, so they went home having extracted from me a check for \$415 for 4 days labor.

On D's arrival, he was even more displeased than I with the management of the window and we decided to follow up on Mrs. Herbst's recommendation of mason Mitschke. I took a walk around the block to mail letters and discovered OLD ROAD TO BLOOMFIELD sign was up at Elwood. The zinnias planted just four days earlier had poked through the ground.

Saturday & Sunday

June 25 & 26, 1955 Planted hollyhook and snapdragon; hoed vegetable and flower gardens; thinned radishes. D worked both days firming window casements in place and other preparations for masons. On Sunday Mr. Mitschke came, not only an obvious artisan but charming taciturnity and honesty to the point of complete self-disinterest. He solemnly advised me that no matter how much I smiled at him he still couldn't rebuild the wall before November. Mr. & Mrs. Jameson also came by. They had the same glow in their faces that all the poor young people had had who had one time yearned to own the house. Mowed the lawn again and discovered the hillocks weren't as pronounced as in the first mowing.

Sunday and Monday

June 3 & 4, 1955 D moved bluestone capstone from well (600 pounds) long way around stones, gravel, and sand piles in front yard to walk and set in place. Also established roadbed with rubble from wall. D established new driveway to conform with property line with fill from wall debris and mixture of coal ash and sediment from cellar.

Crazy woman came up back drive ostensibly looking for "Topping girls" although extremely vague, never really looked at either D or me. D washed window over stairs outside bathroom. Early in a.m. knocked myself out in heat doing slight amount weeding and lawn mowing. Insufferably hot both these two days. Mrs. Leyland stopped by, denied she was Jack Green's mother as he had said. I decided that hereafter people given tour of house would have to be either very earnest or very amusing to be eligible.

Tuesday, July 5, 1955 Building inspector Madera came by, approved wall, and drank some more iced tea. Advised he was way ahead of me in that had already told realtor Price to grade his lots toward DeGraw; urged I use his friend Apostolico to install heating, pointing out much more flexible than bigger operators and could give better price, also available later for odd plumbing jobs.

Phoned heating contractors for estimates on installation gas-hot water. United man became too offensive. I suggested and he agreed to drop whole matter. Spangenberg man came around noon. As with others before him, he was appalled when I replied I had no architect. At the end when he was about to leave, he looked genuinely hurt when I pointed out I was getting several other estimates.

Pirrello phoned to ask what Madera had said about wall. Hadn't put materials bill in mail, said he would drop it by house later. I tried to discourage him saying I was going out with laundry and didn't know when I would be back. Spent quite some time sitting in park waiting for laundry instead of returning home in order to avoid him but he out-waited me. When he gave me materials bill I said I would mail check. He mildly threatened wouldn't get 2% discount if not received before 10th. Thereupon, asked about check for labor. I challenged he was haunting me on 1st day of approval, in addition to making 350.00 clear profit for having insisted on over-estimation of time. He denied but did retire as I stated firmly he would get his money. I decided thing I had resented about him and uncle Plast from beginning was that they had treated me like wealthy moron. Later in the day I had the dubious satisfaction of walking three short blocks in the excessive heat to mail the check in the post box.

, Birds walked around rim of new trough, hopped back and forth across it, and cautiously sipped from brink. Later added gravel to bring up level. This resulted in onslaught of birth bathing and prospect of producing cleanest birds in city even though majority robins and starlings. Used audubon bird call on them and they paid no attention. Adolescent robins quarrelled with each other as to who was to be in trough although amply large enough for ten at a time.

Phoned supt of carriers who agreed had received my letters about Old Road address. Had notified branch PO to change map and would phone me when this was done.

Wednesday, July 6, 1955 Fairly uneventful day. Cop who had apparently parked in front of house for extended lunch hours for years was now on other side of road. This noon he walked across lawn, stole piece of wood from building construction and adjusted it as support under seat of his car.

Extracted last of tacks from window seat box in sisters room. Periodically ~~xx~~ I would decide I wouldn't gouge on any more of these infinitesimal and innumerable objects since it only meant destruction of the wood. Then I would decide certain ones stuck out too far and would gouge again. In evening Mrs. Pirrello phoned to ask material bill for another job which had been erroneously entered on my bill. She closed by saying "Pete" said thanks for check.

- Thursday, July 7, 1955 Weeded and hoed flower gardens after night of rain. Discov-
 covered calla lily, which I had thought was quite dead, had thrown up an
 enterprising spear. Thinned lettuce and carrots. Although quite frail
 they survived the day's heat. Secured prints of first pictures I had
 taken of house during wall construction. They looked even more frighten-
 ing than the actual event.
- Radiant Heat Co man phoned. Hem was supposed to have come that
 morning for inspection to make estimate on heating. When he found I was
 getting other estimates, he put off visit until Monday. Seemed to think
 whole job very easy, only take two days. When he mentioned recessed
 radiators, I pointed out this impossible because of 2 foot thick stone
 wall. Even this didn't faze him. Efforts to get Apostolico on the
 phone had been fruitless. Usually when I called, his enfant terrible
 served as an effective block against finding out either his whereabouts
 or when I could reach him.
- Phoned friend Mary Ann to discover her formula for washing walls and
 woodwork. This proved to be so time-consuming, I proceeded on my own and
 made a start on upstairs front hall. Replica of Josephine Hull
 suddenly appeared around dining room window in evening wandering about
 lawn admiring house. Her vague, otherly worldly questions and responses
 confirmed my first impression that she was harmlessly and quietly daft.
- Friday, July 8, 1955 Weeded front lawn next to house and removed collection of
 branches and limbs to rear of house. In evening manned wheelbarrow to
 assist D in removing ashes from cellar and deposit in new driveway.
 Ashes were so powdery and devoid of clinkers D decided they were all
 prior 1930 when coal burned completely to ashes. P.O. demurred
 on address, finally agreed to send man to see building on Monday.
- Saturday, July 9, 1955 Mr. Apostolico showed up in morning. Earnest, straight-
 forward, seemed to know his business. Agreed to proposition he install
 furnace and supervise D on installation of radiators and pipes.
 Mowed most of lawn and watered garden. Mrs. Herbst had inquired of
 realtor Price about heating engineers. He had been very oblique in his
 responses, indicating he did not wish to become involved.
- Sunday, July 10, 1955 Plumber Latham appeared to survey house preparatory to heating.
 He gave impression of being excessively tedious. Finished mowing lawn;
 raked up and burned accumulation of sticks from near driveway. D started
 building dry wall with odd pieces fieldstone from wall. Neighbor Salman
 appeared to give advice about building wall and worried about his survey
 stake. Rains came in cloudburst at first; then very satisfactory
 extended drizzle.
- Monday, July 11, 1955 P.O. men came at noon. I gave them all angles about why I
 wanted Old Road address. They tacitly admitted city responsible for
 establishing addresses and that I had good reasons. Complained I had
 already made them lots of extra work and seemed unconvinced this was
 last trouble I would cause them. I showed them through first floor and
 they seemed impressed. On way out I discovered dead mouse and prevailed
 on the more sympathetic of the two to remove it to the park.
- Russ Henry went through building with D to plan installation of
 radiators. I sorted out fluff near front of building and came up with
 bushel basket of broken glass and pieces of shingling.
- Tuesday, July 12, 1955 Applied for 2500.00 bank loan for gas heating. Sorted out
 wisteria sprouts from holly hocks which were finally making their
 appearance. Attacked leaves and honeysuckle under strawberry bush.
 Withdrew in hurry from one clump when drove of yellow jackets bit me
 vigorously for disturbing their nest.
- Wednesday & Thursday
 July 13 & 14, 1955 Worked on roots next to front of building..very elusive. One tiny
 root would turn out to be firmly attached to four foot long half inch thick
 main stem. This pulling and burning took up most of two days, ending
 with ten piles of humus to put on vegetable garden. This was transferred
 to back near vegetable garden, layers humus alternating with layers of
 lime for compost. Killed yellow jackets by pouring kerosene in their
 hole after dark according to Mrs. Herbst's suggestion.

July 13 & 14, 1955 Mrs. Leyland brought her husband by to see house. She averred Mr. Goode at Elwood and Old Road hadn't even known sign was changed until she called his attention to it; claimed he was delighted with change.

Myrna & Kathryn had tracked me down by letter since central had told them my phone was disconnected. Went to their house for supper. Successfully alibied change of telephone number and it apparently never occurred to them to question me about the house.

Thursday, July 14, 1955 Although I had carefully followed D's injunction not to antagonize the cop who parked by the front steps every noon hour, he now occasionally parked on other side of street. One afternoon a man spent several hours shining his car, concluded by standing with back to house, urinating in park. Three times during this day workmen on the Price houses walked through the property obviously for the same purpose. When I spoke to one of the men about it asking that they not walk through my property, he denied any knowledge of such an occurrence, but did agree he would tell them about it. This was first day for several days well-dressed man in station wagon neglected to tinker with his engine in front of house. Possibly my unfriendly stares combined with rolling smoke from the trash burner helped to change his routine.

Friday, July 15, 1955. Building inspector Silenski dropped by to see how things were progressing. I called his attention to fact realtor Price was grading his lots so run-off would come on my property. He was impressed but not over-much, agreed I was right. Mrs. Herbst brought sea shells and white pebbles which we arranged in big bird bath, making very impressive display. While we were having tea afterward Det. Slagel of second precinct appeared. He asked if I were fixing place up as museum, made many disparaging remarks about condition of house, of Miss Edith's expectancies of his protection of her. Supt of Mails McDermott phoned to say I could use Old Road address with proviso I wouldn't blame P.O. if mail otherwise addressed didn't reach me. As before he was feeling very argumentative and implied city had pulled fast one in giving me the address. After his call I filed my pink slip at branch post office and appealed to man behind counter to help me get my mail. He averred postman had been on route thirty years and knew it well and although recently sick, now back on job.

Saturday, July 16, 1955 Made haste to advise business correspondents and few friends of change of address. D repaired carpentry work above new wall. Plumber Latham appeared to give evidence of activity. I pointed out likely give contract to another man. He deflated but stipulated no hard feelings, emphasized expensive job. Garbage man turned out to be like the Lord—gave and took away. One morning earlier he had left a new bushel basket; this morning he disappeared with one. Hoed vegetable garden for which should have had pick-axe instead of hoe since bulldozer had turned up clay.

Sunday, July 17, 1955 D finished framing on front side around new wall, complet with installation of an old knot I had found in some new board with a little added platlic wood. I transferred stones and dirt from cairn near kitchen door to washout at front corner for rock garden. Mrs. Herbst related some of latest gossip from neighbors, mainly that I intended to start tea room and when that happened they would band together to stop me.

Monday, July 18, 1955 Having been unable to contact plumber Apostolico all week-end, now tried plumber Robson. Phoned building spector Silenski about appearance Price had graded lots to drain on my land. Silenski was too busy, advised I call Price myself. Price, all compliments on house, too too ingratiating, advised no amount of run-off since he was making sumpholes, gutters connected with sewer, etc. Transplanted violets to new stone wall and wild flowers to rock garden. D put primer coat on front woodwork.

Wednesday, July 20, 1955 D rebuilt one of dining-room windows. I masked windows for painting. Spangenberg's man came with his boss to see house. Smith furnace man came not realizing I wasn't going to do business with Latham. Robson responded, said plaintively he had been waiting to hear from me. Silenski came around, said he advised contractor to alter grading or erect 2 course wall between properties to prevent run-off.

Thursday, July 21, 1955 D painted windows with "colonial red" which looked very appropriate. I mowed part of lawn. Robson came for discussion of heating and seemed to accept proposition of doing labor with my supply of plans and material. He had driven by the house frequently during renovation, now drawled "Now I see what you're trying to do." Had even done some reading. Commented this house was on stage road to Bloomfield.

Ate first picking beans and blackberries.

Friday, July 22, 1955 Sent tax installment to city. Received couple more letters addressed Old Road. Oppressive heat continued. Russ Henry came and stayed figuring endlessly to prepare plans and equipment list for Robson. Window glazing and painting continued.

Saturday & Sunday

July 23 & 24, 1955 While spading between rows in vegetable garden, neighbor Master-son's male guest tried to stike up a "jolly" conversation with me, starting off by commenting I should speed up the operation since I wouldn't like a movie of my slow operation and ending with query as to whether the kale were beans. After he retired unsuccessfully to the family circle on the lawn, I heard Mr. Masterson drawing something about Newton D. Baker. Apparently the erroneous information that I was descended from the one-time secretary of war was now being circulated about the neighborhood.

Several more people stopped to admire the house during week-end. D and I decided to make up for free distribution to interested persons a printed list of answers to typical questions such as: (1) The Topping sisters do not live here any more. (2) The house is at least 200 years old, the rear portion probably being older. (3) Taxes aren't too high since it is on an unimproved street. (4) Children haven't bothered at all for last three months. (5) Restoration to original is planned as far as possible with (a) limited budget (b) present-day available supplies such as lumber. (6) The place is not for sale although an offer of \$500,000 might be considered. (7) The house will not be used as a tea room or museum, nor will apartments or rooms be rent out. ~~It is a private residence and no tours of the inside of the house will~~ (8) Since it is a private residence, tours of the inside of the house will not be accorded the general public. (9) As far as is known George Washington never came near the place. (10) So far no gold cache has been found, nor ~~is it~~ is anticipated that one will be.

Glazing, masking, and painting continued so that by Sunday night majority of windows on front side and end were colonial red. D poured some more of cement floor in basement so now area large enough to accomodate furnace and water heater.

Monday, July 25, 1955 Contacted millworker Salvato about outside screens. He was another who had always wanted to buy the house. When he remarked he could make a palace of it, I ventured to remark it was a farmhouse in first place. He was so entranced with idea of my ownership, averred he could be of much help to me and wouldn't mind coming over since so near his business, would give me very reasonable prices for millwork.

Tuesday, July 26, 1955 Finished spading garden and watered. Iron monger Weissman promised to send man next day so D knocked radiators loose. Mrs. Herbst averred that Newton D Baker story was circulated very soon after sale of property. On my way on an errand I perceived that mason Mitschke's truck was parked in front of a house. On my return I stopped, fearing he might be aggrieved with my interrupting him on another job, and asked if he would be interested in re-building my chimneys. With his beatific expression he remarked with great serenity that he would in the fall and would come around when ready to do my job. Newark water dept truck was parked on front lawn with occupants lolling on benches in horseshoe pit good two hours. After repeated appearances on my part, finally one of the men asked me what time it was. I averred I didn't know; all I did know was that they had parked there awfully long time. At this, they departed.

Wednesday, July 27, 1955 Mowed another part of lawn and picked blackberries before 9 a.m. when heat set in at which time Abe Weissman appeared. Excessively hot ~~xit~~ day. All day he labored getting radiators and sundry pipes out, breaking up furnace boilers. Twenty years ago he was supposed to take out old furnace boiler but Miss Edith wouldn't let him fearing his breaking it up would shake the house. I gave him lunch, much to his surprise and furnished him with innumerable cups of coffee over discussions of present-day morality of social relations. As he was about to load radiators on truck, Mr. Salvato appeared looking earnest and soulful. They already knew each other, exchanged compliments. Both ignored with icy coldness old workman from Price houses who came over to try to interest Mr. Weissman in a "furnace in very good condition." This Mr. W. turned out to be cousin of original and small-time operator whom cousin gave hard time. Mr. W. regaled me with complete sketch of his entire family and gave me fire basket and andirons for fireplaces. At end of day just before Mr. W's fifth and sixth cups of coffee, he asked for a drink of water. I was about to take it to him in basement when I heard him say as he approached last big piece of scrap iron, "Come here, you little ~~sonafabitch~~ sonofabitch." I hastily retreated so he wouldn't know I had heard him.

Straightened plumber Robson out on materials order which I had to make before end of week because of price rise. Plumber Latham brought back plans, re-iterated "no hard feelings." Remarked had ~~thru~~ 30 bathrooms to install and probably couldn't have gotten to me before cold weather to which I rejoined he must be very clean.

Thursday, July 28, 1955 Robson's man Norman arrived to install repaired water meter. being a very serious and earnest citizen, Norman listened with appropriate comments to my tale of the masons.. Mr. Weissman arrived with another firebasket, bigger than last and having addition of casters. I gave him more coffee and we exchanged more views of society. On trip to hardware store met up with mailman and gave him ride en route. I averred feared he had crossed me off his list whereas he pointed out had that day brought me mail. What I really feared was that mail supervisor McDermott had gotten wind of my derogatory remarks about him and put a stop order on my mail delivery.....Took Mrs. Herbst basket of blackberries. She returned almost immediately with 175 year old chair.

Friday, July 29, 1955 Waited until 11:15 to show Mr. Salvato through house. When he hadn't come by that time, and I had finished weeding and hoeing all flower beds, I left note for him and took trolley ride to down-town Newark for denim to make curtain for demolished end wall.....On return found Mrs. Leyland showing sister-in-law house and Mrs. Kennedy wanting to buy some of stone. Seemed quite dismayed when I pointed out stone had to go back in wall.

On way to laundry passed building inspectors Madera and Silenski and gave them a ride on return. I had phoned Madera that morning explaining why I had failed with Apostolico and asking that he looked at Price's grading job which still didn't satisfy me. The two men averred it looked all right to them but if big rain caused overflow, then they would do something. Much joshing and bantering which ended with my assertion of eventual party for my business acquaintances who had been nice to me, pointing out they would be invited but mail supervisor McDermott, Perella and uncle Plast would not. This latter remark really delighted Madera. On return from grocery Mrs. Weissman was just driving by and stopped. I pointed out I wished to use femal prerogative and change mind. He obviously feared I had decided not satisfied with exchange on scrap iron. Hastened to advise him I wanted andirons instead of baskets for next finds. He tried to convince me I should take Baltimore heater which I resisted.....Gave Mrs. Herbst mosquito repellent. She tried to give me practically everything in attic. I arranged to have 2 friends come to get marble topped bureau and wash stand next day, went away with hat stand. On my demurral she complained I was hardest person to give anything to, never met anybody like me before...Phoned Robson to arrange to take plan showing radiator placement and loops. He had not yet made firm date with PS to have inspection but remarked wouldn't let me down.

Saturday, July 30, 1955 As I walked across Montclair Avenue at Mt. Prospect and paused to see what an oncoming car was going to do, driver, whom I had never seen before, leaned out and said jovially, "I ought to run you over because you changed the name of that street." Later as I was concealed in blackberry bushes in front, two boys went by on bicycles complaining of the holes in the road, "Old Road, I'll say it's an old road!"

D made another addition to the cement floor in basement. Reedy and Geri came for supper. First got them to help carry marble topped dresser and washstand from Mrs. Herbst's. Ensconced in back bedroom with 1880 bed, looked as if they had always been there. We had cocktails on back lawn. Unfortunately none of neighbors were in evidence to be shocked.

Sunday, July 31, 1955 Masked and primed more windows. One car full of family sat for at least 15 minutes studying house.

Monday, August 1, 1955 Furnace, radiators, and heating installation material were delivered. Mr. Weissman came by to offer me andirons with huge owls for front uprights. When I said I didn't like them and hoped he would forgive me for that, he averred he would forgive me for anything.

Tuesday, August 2, 1955 Yellow warbler revisited and actually intimidated several sparrows in competition for seed although he was size smaller than they. At one point birds began distress call. I went out to see what trouble was and couldn't see anything. Finally a cat ambled out from bushes. After I had scared it away with my poor aim of a clod of dirt, birds were quiet again. Took picture of brown thrasher at little pool and grackle at big for which I had to wait only about 8 minutes.

Wednesday, August 3, 1955 Plumber Robson and PS Collie came to inspect. Mr. Collie delighted with house and very permissive, said it reminded him of home (Scotland.) He seemed to know Robson, remarking he would help push him.Millworker Salvato came to see inside of house, duly impressed. Averred since I was "all alone", he would let me have lumber wholesale.Touched up with colonial red spots on windows and was just trying to think up some logical excuse for resting when Liz Arless came by, insisted she was much impressed with amount of work accomplished.

Thursday, August 4, 1955 Water Bureau inspector "Uncle Joe" came by, resulting in long discussion of house and his sister's house in Hunterdon County.Mason Foulds came by in evening to look over situation for erection of chimney flue for furnace and hot water heater. Full of questions I couldn't answer....Planted myrtle on bare spot near D's wall. Birds started attacking seedling zinnias.

Friday, August 5, 1955 Phoned building inspector Madera who announced to my dismay had to have 4" brick, no cinder block. PS Collie promised to phone Foulds that evening to straighten him out on requirements. That night Foulds quoted price of 250.00As I was painting bedroom windows on table in dining-room saw young boy at window. By time I got outside he was safely ensconced in his father's car. Manx apologized saying thought no one lived there. He and brother had tried to buy house twelve years ago and "they" wouldn't sell.....Neighbor Mrs. Herbst gave me china set for washstand and bean pot. So hot and dry birds began attacking flowers.

Saturday, August 6, 1955 Washed windows on outside. D removed last of pipes and established shoring for end wall and roof.

Sunday, August 7, 1955 D put up curtain to cover gutted wall. I washed windows. Rains came.

Monday and Tuesday

August 8 & 9, 1955 Window painting and washing. Mr. Weissman came for pipes; wanted me to buy bargain iron cellar door which I rejected.

Wednesday, August 10, 1955 Plumber Robson's men began heat installation. Mrs. Sommer appeared with daisies and melon, telling me much of Topping regime. Among other things that Toppings said they had had roof put on. When I remarked maybe city would get onto improvements and raise taxes, she assured me that if that happened her husband George would get them lowered again.

- Thursday, August 11, 1955 Transplanted myrtle to bare spot next to neighbor Salman's ~~and~~ cinder block wall. Russ Henry came by, agreed Plumber Norman a jewel. Rain started that night and kept up for 2½ days totalling 9".
- Friday, August 12, 1955 Hurricane Connie arrived in night. I took periodic tours of house when noises occurred during night. Last was 5 a.m. when another big accumulation of soot fell out of kitchen chimney. Rains revealed two leaks in roof.
- Saturday, August 13, 1955 Plumber Joe arrived bright and early to pump out cellar because of seepage through wall caused by trenching disturbance. D. cleaned out cellar some more. Mulberry tree was toppled by rain and wind. B dropped it up.
- Sunday, August 14, 1955 More windows. Syringa which had appeared dead was sending out fresh buds of leaves. D started to dig hole for chimney for furnace and water heater....Mrs. Herbst's rose lattice had been blown down. D put it up again and I put ~~me~~ cuttings in ground. Mrs. H. gave me mirror to go with furniture.
- Monday, August 15, 1955 Two little boys came by. One remarked thoughtfully "terribly old house" than added "George Washington slept in awful lot of old houses." Then, spying me sitting on the ground weeding, he turned his eyes down, looking very sheepish.....Woman walked in from Heller, purposefully adjusted camera, took picture of curtained wall and departed....Madera came by, approved shoring on end wall....Planted small sprig Boston ivy to climb on D's wall. Mason McCann came in eve to estimate chimney, gave me his life history.
- Tuesday, August 16, 1955 Plumbers started upstairs after lunch. Called PS Coulton for confirmation of flue measurement. When I agreed PS had been good to me, he said I could have anything I wanted. I neglected to point out I already had...Grass had grown sufficiently with rain for another mowing.
- Wednesday, August 17, 1955 ECPK Commission man came by, agreed I had at least 10 year job. Roofer Moravek came to inspect for leaks I had reported. He dabbed some roofing cement here and there but was obviously unconvinced about leaks. Said he had 700 calls, didn't want to be richest man in cemetery. Pointed out roofs leaked with recent rain that never leaked before. Remarkd he could put 3 ranch houses on this ~~six~~ size lot.
- Thursday, August 18, 1955 While cleaning windows up-stairs I noticed dashing blonde was having heavy necking party in car on other side of road. Presently another car drove up. Handsome couple got out and inspected house thoroughly at which blonde and her boyfriend drove off.
- Spangenberg's man finally arrived to return plans after I had phoned almost daily. He said their best price was \$3910 and was startled when I said I anticipated getting it done for \$2250. He admitted his boss had wanted to do the job to be able to say he had put heating in oldest house in Newark. Two of them had figured 8:30-10:30 night before trying to get price down.
- Friday, August 19, 1955 More rain, more leaks, phoned for Moravek again, no response.
- Saturday & Sunday August 20 & 21, 1955 D finished hole in basement wall and footing for chimney; also packed dirt in around sewer pipe so no more immediate leaks in basement. Neighbor Salman finally out his weeds. I finished clipping weeds at points not accessible to lawn mower. Terrific heat.
- Monday.. August 22, 1955 Foulds came to consult about thimble placement....Donnelly phoned to say they couldn't find street to deliver phone book...Apprehended postman taking tour around house to have look, believing I wasn't home.
- Tuesday, August 23, 1955 Salvato finally showed up with attic window. ...PS not only renewed burned out light but put on globe as well.Two kitchen windows scraped and cleaned. Warblers looked brilliant through cleaned window....Moravek finally phoned at night, blithely promised to come at earliest opportunity; agreed to take look in attic.
- Wednesday, August 24, 1955 More windows. Plumbers finished with second floor.

Thursday, August 25, 1955 Mason Foulds arrived first thing. Inspector Madera came in mid-morning, being very business-like but approving the operation. Russ Henry brought air vents and wrong size copper tubing. Phone PS about wire in way of chimney building; said they would inspect in p.m. Very presently big charming service man came by, accidentally stepped on Sweet William plant, for which he apologized profusely; said he would report to engineering department. PS Daly appeared shortly thereafter. All my wiles left him somewhat cold. He apparently disapproved of my shorts and was very much impressed with his 44 years of service with PS. He finally conceded he would send some men around to "cut some slack in the wire," and would advise PS Customer Service so they would give me less of a hard time about the pole he said I would have to have at my expense than if I contacted them without his intercession.....Grapes weren't quite ripe but, since masons' men were eating them and there weren't very many anyway, I cut all of them.

Friday, August 26, 1955 PS came first thing in morning and rigged up electric wires as if for major construction job.Plumbers finished most of installation.

Saturday, August 29, 1955 Children peered in window with evil intent. When I appeared at door, they looked surprised, managed to ask if I were the lady who lived there before, then conceded she must have moved away, went off on bike looking thwarted.Foulds finished chimney at noon, diminutive compared to other five. He had succeeded in saving all my perennials from scaffolding and feet.

Sunday, August 28, 1955 D firmed up dining room floor enough for installation of radiator. Dining-room door hadn't shut fully since heavy rains. D gave at wallop with 6# sledge and it shut docilely.....Woman alited from car, admired house, pointed out D's dry wall to less interested man and child remaining in car.....Cop wandered about building looking at house as he chewed on ice cream bar, waved at me with other hand when I appeared at window.

Monday, August 29, 1955 Phoned Inspector Madera first thing re chimney, He said okay to pay since Mason Foulds was good workman. ...While cleaning third kitchen window NJMTT young man arrived blithely announcing he had come to remove phone from Topping at 720 DeGraw. His bounce wasn't decreased by my announcement that Toppings removed five months ago and 720 DeGraw was no more.

PS McGinn arrived to inspect for relocation of light wires, a marked contrast to Inspector Daley. McGinn was gentle, considerable, impeccable in manners and dress. He averred he would try to figure out how I could manage without a pole.....PS bill arrived still addressed to 829 First St. I phoned PS to complain and had to tell the story of my July 16th notification to Mr. Zahner to three people before I was connected with Mr. Zahner who hastened to advise that was all taken care of. When I pointed out it wasn't; that this was the 2nd bill wrongly addressed since my notice to him, he agreed to check the matter.

Trimmed roses and discovered to my delight all of the cuttings neighbor Herbst had given me had touches of green to show they lived. Cut out old stalks of blackberries preparatory to next year.

Tuesday, August 30, 1955 Plumber Norman failed to come as promised. Black and white warbler showed, bringing to three the different kinds of warblers. PS McGinn arrived to deliver the coup de grace, that I would have to have a pole at \$100 or bring service entrance to front corner of building..... One grandmother and grandchild inspected house joined by other urchins when they thought it unoccupied. Grandchild didn't like the house, grandmother did. When urchins began charging about looking in windows, I put my head out of window and advised that I lived here. Grandmother went on about how she and daughter loved to go through old houses, how the sisters used to exchange greetings with her and that she would be back to see me when the house was finished...Woman still in riding breeches who had viewed house on Sunday returned. Both she and grandmother stated electrician Crane had loaned them WOODSIDE book and told them about house.

- October 30, 1955 Mr. Mitschke averred he'd been thinking of me but would be several weeks before he could come. D cleared rear parlor of work bench in anticipation of his coming....Great deal of rain. Golden leaves of maple tree all fell....Robson's man didn't come as promised for leaks.
- October 31, 1955 HallowE'en—D₄ stayed in house with lights on armed with apples, chocolate bars, and pennies but there was no business. Two days later a broken window pane was discovered but there was nearby on the ground a heavy dead limb that had obviously caused the damage.
- November 5, 1955 B on windows; D on cellar floor and back door. Norman came and fixed two big leaks and one minor one in heating. Moravek came and insisted leaks in roof were from defective chimney in front parlor. Since I was half-convinced he was right, I agreed to pursue him again if leaks showed after chimneys were rebuilt.
- November 8, 1955 Voted; tellers had short discussion deciding location of Old Road but made no demurrals....Troop of small boys came by while D was working on back door election day. As they went steadily forward through property despite D's remark "the lady" didn't like people walking on the property, they rejoined she would like them when she got to know them. Pulled up couple temporary boundary markers on their way.
- November 12, 1955 Observed new mailman was walking each time closer to front side of house peering in.
- November 13, 1955 Couple men came by asking if I would sell strip of land in back of red house since one (who looked and acted like criminal syndicate official) was thinking of buying "little" red house, had two cars and wanted access from back street. Couldn't understand why I wouldn't sell or at least in my own interest build modern house on big vacant piece. Asked if I were going to put brick veneer all way around to which I responded two feet of stone, not brick veneer. Unabashed they continued their walk around house and across lawn in front....
" D cleaned up back yard accumulation wooden boxes etc and finished back cellar floor.
- November 14, 1955 Jeanette and Ethel came to supper bearing old lamp wired for electricity.
- November 19, 1955 Mr. Mitschke started on wall, arranging shoring and cleaning up so looked like Broadway production.
- November 21, 1955 D pulled down dining room mantel disclosing handsome stone chimney. Notified Maders. Found vine grown behind baseboard for at least six feet and up three at dining-room door.
- November 23, 1955 Sent final check for property and mortgage.
- November 25, 1955 Told Mr. Mitschke of decision to eliminate rear parlor fireplace. He muttered to himself: "changes, always changes" but admitted I made no more than average.....Dr. Lewis arrived with cancelled mortgage. Feeling very jovial and very curious. Obviously itching to see inside of house which I didn't invite him. Took cancelled mortgage to Hall of Records where they advised it would have to be notarized or attested to by attorney. Lawyer Mesie unwilling to take this responsibility, forwarded to Keenan.
- November 26, 1955 Finished glazing second floor windows. D started building kitchen mantel...Mr. Mitschke averred didn't need to "make a project" of wall; get it up fast so not cost too much but make good job....
- November 27, 1955 D inserted S (for Sydenham) in capstone in front walk.
- December 3, 1955 Mr. Mitschke on last lap of wall admitted rough work. Two squirrels looked over roof edge waiting for Mr. M to go to get into house.... Cancelled mortgage came in mail....D installed batten attic door in place of ordinary door at dining room garden; finished kitchen mantel; built bird feeding station....B tackled last of outside windows, transom over front door.
- December 4, 1955 Notified park police of man laboriously loading humus from park into bushel baskets to carry away in car. Half hour after he left they arrived; didn't have much idea of what top-soil or humus was! would clear license through teletype. Much more interested in house than humus.
- December 5, 1955 Mrs. Herbst phoned about neighbor boy and girl letting water out of bird bath and throwing all shells out.

December 6, 1955 Installed front window in rear parlor.

December 7, 1955 Mr. Mitschke's last day. I came home early in anticipation. Stood around in cold quite some time admiring wall, making innuendoes about other things to be done on house. At once juncture he suggested I could do the painting around rest of house. Thinking he meant right then I should learn, I stepped up saying I was willing. He said some other time. Finally he said he would do the things I couldn't. He would come in couple weeks to talk about it. D should take do n plaster on canvas, shove it out window and Joe would come around to pick it up and haul it away.

December 10, 1955 D finished and installed bird-feeding station.

December 11, 1955 Mr. Mitschke came to talk about plastering ceilings by fitting in with his other work, specifying that he didn't need the work but felt sorry for me. It appeared that we might differ on other project as we went along, such as height of dining room mantel. He stated his relief when I said my friends would understand if the place were torn up, saying most women had to have it cleaned up all time. B finished inside door for back basement. No birds for feeding station, only one squirrel who found he could jump for it but apparently didn't like what he found there.

December 17 & 18, 1955 B replaced six panes new glass with 6 old in front parlor windows. D reframed kitchen door.

12/19/55 Came home at 6 p.m. to discover house had been ransacked. Apparently group of older boys had entered through loose front parlor windows; built fire of charcoal in canal coal cradle and smoked Viceroy cigarettes. One of them defecated in back parlor. Apparently timing of this, they went through whole house. Especially fascinated with razor blades, matches, and cigarettes. Although they apparently opened most drawers and closets, only things they actually took were one traveling clock, one 50 year old heirloom fob watch, one silver ring, about 6 packs of cigarettes, and a box of book matches. As usual police were more fascinated with house than damage done although next day Det. Gellerman told me he would put the description of jewelry on teletype.

December 20, 1955 Mr. Mitschke phoned to say he would come on morrow to start tearing out kitchen ceiling preparatory to plastering. I had been pre-occupied all evening trying to keep warm at kitchen fireplace in extreme cold. Transferred movable kitchen things to pantry.

December 21, 1955 ~~Plumber~~ Plumber Norman came to unfreeze water and soil pipes. D helped Mr. M in a.m. take down kitchen ceiling. Managed to get away in pm to meet D and Bill at City Hall to apply for marriage license.

December 22, 1955 Mr. M. put up plaster board.

December 23, 1955 Mr. M put on basic coat of plaster.

December 24, 1955 D knocked plaster off one side of kitchen preparatory to panelling; cleared out dining-room. B finished cleaning and installing of last of outside windows.

December 26, 1955 B and D cleared out rear South bedroom preparatory to plastering. D took further precautions against squirrels.

December 27, 1955 Mr. Mitschke put white coat on kitchen while Joe knocked plaster off rear South bedroom.

December 28, 1955 Mr. Mitschke and Joe left at noon. D and I were married in afternoon.

December 30, 1955 Mr. M returned and was quite outdone to see D hadn't finished putting plasterboard on back bedroom ceiling despite my protestation that he had had hard time learning and did best he could. Mr. M at first threatened to leave without putting on base coat. But then he did put that on. Reminded me of bills piling up; agreed to do dining-room ceiling if D took off Plaster.

December 31, 1955 D took plaster off dining-room. I phoned Mr. M. I'd have 500.00 by end of week. Whereupon he said didn't need to be that soon.

January 1, 1956 I cleaned kitchen cupboards.

January 7 and 8, 1956 Took paper off back bedroom and dining-room.

January 12, 1956 To our dismay we discovered Mr. M. had outlined dining room fireplace stone so it looked modern.

January 13, 1956 D repaired dining-room fireplace. Mr. M finished dining room ceiling and fireplace.

- January 14 & 15, 1956 Vacuumed rugs, washed windows, rearranged furniture, took flash pictures, ~~part~~ preparatory to cocktail party.
- January 21, 1956 Cocktail party for 30 people, announcement of marriage, casserole supper for eleven. Diningroom fireplace exuded smoke.
- January 22, 1956 went to Metropolitan Museum to view 18th century rooms.
- January 28, 29, 1956 D removed plaster from upstairs North bedroom and put up rock "lath."
- February 4 & 5, 1956. Saw first robin of season. Cardinals, blue jays, sparrows and juncos remained only feeding stations patrons with good deal interference from squirrels who found they could jump to it. Towhee scratched in leaves under quince bush several times. During sparrow hawk's brief visit in neighboring yard atop a tree eviscerating mouse, there was great ~~hush~~ hush of other birdlife in vicinity.
- D took plaster off front parlor ceiling disclosing great beams and fact fireplace was not the original. Distributed plaster in driveway. B scrubbed down walls of back bedroom and filled cracks and holes.
- February 9, 1956 Public Service sent disconnect threat for 2/16 because of unpaid huge heating bill.
- February 11 & 12, 1956 D continued on front parlor. Robson's Norman came to mend leaking radiator in back bedroom. Helper let all radiators shoot out water after which he carefully closed doors so wasn't discovered until after his departure.B took paper off most of dressing room.
- February 13, 1956 B put up curtains in ~~fr~~ parlors. D cleaned up front lawn.
- February 15, 1956 B paid December light and gas bill with D's loan from coworker. When B mentioned Mr. Jensen, PS Bush bowed politely and thanked her.
- February 18 & 19, 1956 D did more straightening of front and side yard, arranging cinder blocks at back....B took paper off walls and ceiling of back halls and finally finished tag ends of bathroom. Found transom to attic and installed old panes.
- February 20, 1956 B cashed last of postal savings; got documents from banks preparatory to joint accounts and wills.
- February 21, 1956 D took down grape arbor lead to house, last easy squirrel access. Change of bird feeding station stand from wood to pipe had kept them off there.
- February 23-26, 1956 D transplanted bushes to back line, put chimney pipe around support for bird feeding station in next effort to keep squirrels off; put moth balls in house holes. B spachtled cracks and holes in walls of dressing room. D established cocktail-bench of bluestone and granite at back.
- March 3, 1956 D and neighbor Carl Lozito transplanted quince bushes preparatory to new house being erected. Daffodils appeared at several forgotten locations. D transplanted barberries to front.
- March 9, 10, 11, 1956 Redwing and pigeon visited bird feeding station. D established beginning of new grape arbor. B spachtled closet in rear bedroom. D seeded several areas with grass seed. Delphinium, bleeding heart, and columbine poked through. Still no excavation for third house. Hermit thrush appeared and ate steadily from that time on.
- March 15, 1956 First robin appeared.
- March 19, 1956 Snow two feet thick--no school. D shoveled all day. Birds were frantic for food, ate avidly at board put out window, next day skittish again.
- March 24 & 25, 1956 D fought squirrels all day. B spachtled and advanced on bathroom.
- March 26, 1956. Big hole for third house. Nabor Lozito reported they were going to spare quince tree.
- March 31, 1956 D injured eye while trimming trees--eye doctor. House cleaning for Easter.
- April 7 & 8 1956. More snow. D dug dirt out of front cellar; blocked up hole in back clapboard where blackbirds were building nest; noted with satisfaction squirrel had nest in hole in tree on front line.

- April 10, 1956 Observed Mr. Goode's Henry trundling wheelbarrow down Old Road, pause at our gravel pile with apparent intent of stealing some of that, looked up and down road, then trundled on to county gravel pile from which he extracted about 4 wheelbarrow loads that p.m. and several succeeding pms. With this he filled holes in the city-abandoned Old Road at side of his house.
- April 14, 1956 D extracted dirt from front cellar, leveling off back yard. Mrs. Herbst brought tiny peach tree and lavender flower roots which were installed. B burned some back attic trash. At one point while gone a few minutes, boys threw burning stick into park and fire department had to be called to put out brush fire. B also burned sticks and leaves from yard, uncovering flowers.
- April 15, 1956 Phoned Mr. Price about drainage ditch landscape gardeners had made from Sobol lot into ours. He disclaimed any responsibility, told me to phone Dr. Sobol who "didn't know why they did that" ~~and~~, would have them fill it up.....D started building stone wall across back of garden, dug out some more dirt from front cellar.
- April 21, 1956 Landscapers filled in drainage canal although the general grading remained downward toward our blackberry patch. D spaded up vegetable and flower garden. B did some more cleanout out of attic; found 1865 paper and cure for St. Vitus Dance in small vial. D transplanted rose climbers to back fence.
- April 23-27, 1956 Spring vacation: B planted 4 o'clocks by wall; installed ivy by all dry walls and lite pole. D planted ~~azaleas~~ azaleas across front. B put in snapdragons. Mrs. Herbst announced she had sold her house to remove June 1st.
- April 29, 1956 B planted vegetable garden—first warm day we'd had.
- May 5, 1956 D reorganized rock garden and B ~~it~~ installed new growing things.
- May 6, 1956 Bought Boston ivy, grapes, and more things for rock garden and installed.
- May 12, 1956 vegetable garden began to look like something despite cool weather. Went to Staten Island to see Loring McMillen, bearing pictures and plans. He advised house had at least five stages—North wall looked 1740; would ~~visit~~ visit during summer.
- May 19, 1956 First thorough grass cutting so lawn began to look real. Four o'clocks coming up but constant struggle to keep down grass and weeds in that corner.
- May 30, 1956 D and B toted furniture from Mrs. Herbst's all afternoon.
- June 4, 1956 (Topping) "girls" came to look see—flowered pots, Honey's grave; while we were out.
- June 24, 1956 phoned Dr. Sobol to have his gardener quit throwing stones and grass cuttings over on our lawn.
- June 27, 1956 Tax assessors visited and decided to list house as not completed, meaning no rise in taxes.
- June 29, 1956 Mr. Knight came by with flowers. Catty and Peg ^{July 4, 1956} gave more flowers.
- July 7, 1956 D finished S in capstone. Still fighting squirrels.
- July 11, 1956 NJ T&T changed wiring and changed grounding wires to basement.... Found bees going into knothole.
- July 12, 1956 Cleanout out bed around ferns near front walk.
- July 13, 1956 Bird population reduced to sparrows, grackles, robins. Robins defended nest in maple tree against squirrels. Dusted cabbages with insecticide; badly infected.Newark cops drove by three times during day. Vegetable garden big success; Mrs. Herbst's rose cuttings fully established as climbers at back fence. Liz Arliss came by, bearing wedding gift vase.
- July 14 & 15, 1956 D took pink cement off back end wall and pointed stones, revealing brick top back of diningroom.
- July 16, 1956 Robin building nest in maple in vegetable garden.
- July 18-20, 1956 D panalled 3 upstairs bedrooms. B cleaned metal chest, took paint off chair.
- July 22, 1956 D closed more squirrel holes and cut limbs overhanging roof. Covered bricks at back with siding. Cut limbs low in maple over cocktail table. B disgorged violets and ferns, replacing with lupin and columbine. Nuthatch searched dead tree for bugs.

- July 23, 1956 Mr. Winter new neighbor in Mr. Salman's house. B finished weeding blackberry patch and picket few blackberries.
- July 27, 1956 D started paneling pantry. B started glazing windows in back hall doors. B asked cop to cruise down Old Road 10-12 p.m. At first he clung to statement I should phone radio patrol about parkers. Then agreed to cruise although indicated gave some allowance early eve; more concerned with after tavern hours. Neither parkers or cops after that..... brown thrashers and cardinals returned. Cobblestones delivered and D placed all along front of house.....Developed technique of acting bashful and appreciative at passersby compliments on the grounds which never failed to elicit even more extravagant praise.
- July 28, 1956 Mrs. H. moving on 7/30--gave mason jars and hydrangea. Man who led gang who installed sewer visited briefly with coworker; finally remarked in awed tones I was doing this all by self; so told him I had married.
- August 1, 1956 Finished glass in doors and replaced broken panes. Painted inside basement doors and Mrs. H's bench. Installed rippled glass where neighbor Carl Lozito had made bullet hole with bb gun.
- August 7, 1956 Phoned Fish & Game Commission who promised trapper for squirrels.
- August 8 & 9, 1956 D took ceiling off sitting-room exposing heavy beams and bushels of squirrel nests, carcasses, and corn cobs. Landscaper doing yard of new grey house remarked front "yard looked like park."
- August 10, 1956 D finished taking ceiling off pantry for beams. B started frantically to clean house in preparation for week-end guest Bett Hardy. In midst of this Dr. Moore and family of Cleveland arrived--descendant of Sydenhams. D entertained them outside explaining I was cleaning house. Dr. Moore delighted with S in front step; took pictures of sons by S; said didn't know date of house; averred squirrels in house when he visited 20 years ago.
- August 12, 1956 Redstart visited while Betty and Scotty were there. Cardinal snatching grapevine ravelings for nest in Sommer's yard. Mrs. H. came by to ask about home for Bingo (dog) because Mr. Goode was accusing him of being cause of his aberrations.
- August 15, 1956 D started painting house, alternating with building up well with cobblestones. B. Trimmed grass borders, cultivated gardens.
- August 17, 1956 Monahan adolescent females had led neighborhood girls in roaming about property 8/4 when we went to Shaker Museum festival. D had filled in corner fence 8/5. This day they again started across yard, impeded by company of dog, didn't dart with usual speed. I took out after them, bellowing furiously. They retreated, seeming temporarily intimidated.
- August 20, 1956 B painted fence extension first coat; administered third application bone meal to garden.
- August 21, 1956 D chased squirrels through first floor. They had fallen down between houses because of removal of pantry ceiling.
- August 22, 1956 Squirrel locked in retreat between two houses this time escaped through opened pantry window. Phoned reminder to Fish and Game. Trapper serves three counties. Warden finally gave up and said I could throw squirrels down well. Phoned plumber Robson reminder and as usual he told me not to worry, etc. Building inspectors Madera and Silenski came by for visit, pleased with marriage. Silenski complained house should be made homelike, bouncing on kitchen floor....B made blackberry jam.
- August 23, 1956 D finished building up well and walk around it with cobblestones. B painted window frames two sides of house with primer extracting another bushel of tacks. Newly planted radishes appeared in four days.....Only regular parkers now were 7:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- August 25 & 26, 1956 D painted some more on wood siding....Weissman, junkman, stopped, marveled at improvement.
- August 30, 1956 Cop told parkers to move on at 10 p.m.
- August 31, 1956 B finished canning for time being: pickled beans, blackberry jam, rhubarb jam, red tomato relish, tarragon vinegar, sauerkraut, mint jelly. ...D, with slight assistance from B, got pump out of well. D started on soffit over sitting room fireplace. Robson and Eddie plumbers finally came to repair leak.

- September 3, 1956 D finished soffet and filled in boards in hole in front parlor floor. B phoned Mr. Mitschke 9/2 they would be in money again 9/24/ He said he had patios to do now and window and door lintels could be done in cold, even stormy weather. He couldn't come before November. B reminded him to send bill for rock lath and he said he had it in his book and would send it.....Crazy woman came by, asked if B were Elsie; "same build". Chococate house neighbor came by staring intently, abruptly turned into horseshoe pit when he saw B.
- September 4, 1956 Storm window salesman Joseph Hagan agreed wouldn't want storm windows; spoil appearance of house. Had wanted to buy house, claimed cement could be taken off sandstone, ended by saying would take picture of house some day.
- Phoned water department about meter reading. Very vague, maybe Friday, Monday, Tuesday. Asked what they did when couldn't get in basements—just gave disconnect notice. Blandly explained used average from last reading. Finally agreed reader would come Monday or Tuesday.
- September 8, 1956 Off and on during summer adolescent boys had tried to knock hornet's nest out of tree: marbles in slingshots, bow & arrow, and finally stones size palm of hand. One night lost arrow and went charging through corner barricade to retrieve, breaking wire strands of fence. On return actually stood to be reprimanded. This p.m. made numerous sallies with stones; retreating from time to time. At one point one of the 4 ~~advised~~ advised another "not to go on her lawn because she doesn't like it." This didn't deter them from climbing up Winter's wall and tramping all over their grass and flowers. Finally B phoned radio police, explaining what was going on. Sgt clucked his teeth, comiserated about possibility of broken windows and hornets loose in neighborhood. Obviously had no intention of sending anyone and no one did show up. Fortunately later that day in one of their sallies, boys finally succeeded in knocking nest down so didn't reappear after that.
- September 12, 1956 On arrival home 5 Wilson warblers were bathing in big bird bath. Later about 15 robins were fussing with each other over use of small bird bath. Neighbor Marie Lozito advised during a.m. 3 art students had been sketching house.
- September 15 & 22, 1956 D finished first coat all around as far as 20 feet ladder would go.
- September 18, 1956 Loring McMillen phoned to say he would come by some Saturday.
- September 29 & 30, 1956 D worked on paneling between beams in front parlor.
- October 3, 1956 B made quince jam.
- October 6 & 7, 1956 D put 2nd coat on North Side. Thereafter much protest or mild comment, depending on people, about the "pink".
- October 7, 1956 Mr. Mitschke came by to see what was to be done and stayed for coffee. As usual everything was so easy to him. Reappeared on 10/12 and 13 to do lintels over North door and window pointing over dining room door and window—finishing 10/17.
- October 13, 1956 B planted hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and crocus. D finished one section paneling in pantry.
- October 18, 1956 B phoned to thank Mr. Mitschke for beautiful job, mentioned next as dampers in fireplaces. He said that could be blustery weather as he had more outside jobs to do.
- October 27, 1956 Three juvenile delinquents came by while D was trimming trees. The leader was apparently piqued when D told him to get his dog out of yard. We later discovered they had pulled up three bricks lining the well and dropped them in. Next day B retrieved them by maneuvering the rake.
- October 28 & 29, 1956. D finished front and back burnt orange coat. Both D & B colds.
- November 1956 D put up board framing two front windows in front parlor. Panelled lower part of wall in pantry. Rugieros moved in just after D finished fence and B painted. D continued with insulation.
- December 1956 Water department difficult again. Breck's bird feeders didn't work. One hyacinth popped up because of mild weather. D took plaster off rear parlor ceiling. Decided to retain that chimney despite earlier instruction to Mitschke not to repair it. D reframed front parlor side window in old paneling, took three days.

Christmas week 1956 B began spachtling sitting room and took off 1/3 paint on "high closet" door. Latter took one full day. D made sideless house bird feeders which titmouse and bluejay liked. Squirrels ate wreath off front door (nuts in the decorations). D began filling in hole in wall in sitting room....Telegraph Co and United Parcel claimed no such address. Lozitos invited us over to their house on 12/28 and we couldn't manage to get out of it even though it was our wedding anniversary. The Sommers invited us there for January 1st celebration in the afternoon which went off better.

January 14, 1957 Mr. Mitschke phoned and came about starting on dampers and chimneys since weather was cold and snowy; started next day, worked through 1/26 when D and I began to worry about cost. Finished kitchen and dining-room. 1/30 D made bid to leave sitting room chimney as was save for pointing. Mr. M gave up gracefully as he had his "soldier course."

January 31, 1957 Newark News reporter phoned on pretext of interest in old streets. B gave as little information as possible but got scared when he became sarcastic; phoned Henry Coit next day who assured no story since not enough information.

February 5, 1957 Mitschke phoned and came about wire on chimneys. Stopped next day for awhile, having finished three chimneys and dampers.

February 17, 1957 Durant did publish in Newark News but mainly re streets. Next day several slow cars; one photographer.

February 18, 1957 D made one storm door. B started taking paint off ~~Rutchkavanz~~ beehive oven.

February 18-23, 1957 D finished three storm doors mounted on imitation antique hinges with thumb latches. Creel was attached to kitchen door for new mail box so mailman would cease trampling grass to front door....B finished spachtling first round on sitting room. D installed paneling back of stove. B refinished shelf over stove.

February 23-31, 1957 D refinished tops of old tables in pantry and kitchen. 2/28 Bunny rabbit scampered out of bramble-patch by road when I retrieved newspapers from there.

March 2, 1957 Our second cocktail party to which 38 people came. Our first telegram was delivered.

March 23, 1957 D spaded garden, raked lawn, burned leaves. B finished painting grape arbor. D rebuilt back corner dry wall for nasturtiums. Knocked squirrel nest out of hemlock. Down came two baby squirrels which adults carried off by nape of necks.

April 10, 1957 Found note in front mail basket that express man had been there for first time. Finding no one home, he had taken shrubs back to office where I picked them up.

April 13, 1957 Squirrels having managed to get on bird feeding station hung on grape arbor, D strung wires between maple and grape arbor with wire sheets of barricades between. However, they managed this, too and following Wednesday 4/24 he suspended them from limbs of maple. One tried leap from maple but banged his head and didn't make it. Thereafter they toured the environs, considering bird feeding stations from all angles in effort to evaluate possibilities but didn't actually try the leap again. At one point, one was so exasperated that he picked up an end of the old wire and bit a piece off. Another stood on ground with one claw on grape vine but contemplating bird feeding station.

April 21, 1957 Planted first seeds of season. Some came up 4.27, East 4/21 first really warm day. Birds began returning: wood thrush, nuthatch, towhee, downy woodpecker, least flycatcher, catbird.

April 27, 1957 D started painting peaks with white primer.

May 1-15, 1957 D worked on paneling between beams and masking skinny beams in back parlor.

May 15-18, 1957 Stray dog, Gertrude, hung around and wouldn't leave, whining, looking pitiful. Finally on 5/18 she dashed about so much, enthusiastic at having D working about that she unintentionally stepped all over seedlings. Also boy dogs roared in from road and came to whirling stop in middle of flower bed. So—we lured her into car and took her to Humane Society, where again she became ~~xx~~ anxious as to what was going to happen and urinated down side of my dress.

- May 17-31, 1957 D finished burnt pink coat on peaks. Neighbor boy from back of vegetable garden, Carl Michael Ruggiero, tore down wire in corner fence so D started to build cobblestone fence there. CM bragged he could knock that down and proceeded to do so. Each night D would place some more blocks and each day CM would knock them down. Finally D cemented the whole thing.....Bird feeding station came down for summer. Constant struggle with pigeons.
- June 2, 1957 Garden well under way. B weeded and hoed just before rain. D trimmed back corner maple and hemlock, knocking out more squirrel nests.
- June 12, 1957 NJ school social workers came 20 strong for June meeting. Weather favored and everything went well. One woman asked if I had nice neighbors. I told her they looked after their business and I looked after mine. Saturday late June art teacher came with his class to house. Agreed to sort out old pictures and bring around; had sold many as wedding gifts; thought this house especially in setting more beautiful than any in New England.
- July 2, 1957 Tax assessors came while D was here. Went through same routine as last year; same questions, etc. Finally decided to mark it "not finished". Asked insistently if we hadn't finished something.
- July 4, 1957 Wife of Barringer HS principal came by asking if we wanted to sell. They had a dear house they had loved but sold it in confidence they could buy this one.
- July 10, 1957 D finished framing window in back parlor. Started on last repairs of outside preparatory to painting.
- July 12, 1957 Park Commission cop came by asked about parkers; said he had directed his men to drive through every fifty minutes.
- July 13, 1957 Old house tour in Litchfield, Conn. where we decided they didn't have anything we didn't have.
- July 14, 1957 One woman going by with dog remarked "Just love your cute little house."
- July 16, 1957 D started colonial red, final coat on outside. Finished on 7/31. Then B took over on windows; having repainted rose fence and bench. Then basement doors. D stabilized north wall of rear parlor with cement. B finished top of kitchen cabinet and minwaxed and waxed paneling and top. D raised legs of table and that was installed as kitchen table together with oak table given us 8/1 by Nora Way, school social worker....Constantly fighting drought with slow-trickle watering.
- August 20, 1957 Abby's son from staff of Winterthur came by to see house.
- August 21, 1957 Cy came to buy canoe as recommended by Mr. Weissman.
- August 24, 1957 21 people from D's office for drinks and food. Weather man on our side. Bill Reedy tended bar. General concensus: admired but wouldn't want to live in it.
- August 25, 1957 D rebuilt back cellar stairs. Rains finally came in torrents.
- September 1957 D stabilized top of wall in guest room and Honey's room, cementing top stones. D rebuilt front hall door and made storm door for it with imitation antique hinges and door knocker. B worked in garden and yard preparing for winter.
- October 1957 D insulated and cedar-lined closets in girls' room and our bedroom.
- October 25, 1957 Abby Sommer sold furniture preparatory to moving.
- October 30, 1957 boulder came through window pane in front South bedroom on Mischief night. Police eventually came and told to report to insurance. B installed old pane by 7 a.m. next day—reported to insurance but clerk said she didn't know what to do.
- November 21, 1957 Abby moved; Mrs. Herbst in hospital. During November D continued work in parlors.
- December 15, 1957 Phoned Mr. Mitschke to see if cold enough for him to work. He came over to see what to be done. Admitted it was he who gave Newark News phone number. Started on front chimney 12/17.
- December 31, 1957 Mr. Mitschke finished both parlor chimneys outside. Then he finished fireplaces inside.
- January 31, 1958 Racing against Mr. Mitschke: B taking off wallpaper, D taking off plaster and putting up rock lath. By 1/4 Mr. M had put brown coat on South bedroom, Honey's room and middle upstairs hall.

January 15, 1958 Mr. M had finished plastering in Honey's room and two front bedrooms. He asked me if we wanted him to fill cracks. I told him to do ones he thought would be too much for my spachtling. As a result he did everything except pinholes.

2/21-3/3, 1958 February vacation, we worked like mad on front parlors. B spent five days pachtling in parlors and sitting room. Ever night when D came home there was one more wall to paint with first coat. D used up six gallons first coat in front of house. He found three old-fashioned wrought iron window shade brackets which he established in kitchen; only place we planned to have shades when completed.

March 1-2, 1958 D made wooden holders and rods for curtains in front parlors. I made white linen curtains for parlors patterned after what we had seen in Metropolitan. (Scalamandre wanted 7.35 a yard for dimity.)

March 8, 1958 Thirty-four people came to cocktail party. Abby Sommer suggested we have these in summer so people could be outdoors. B fell, tripping over a dog when she went after cocktail sandwiches. George Sommer was so impressed with parlors it was embarrassing. ***

March 9, 1958 B started removing salt hay from flower beds.

March 29-April 4, 1958 B really got under way with lawn clean-up.

March 29 and April 4 1958 Flying ants (termites) appeared at two dining room and one kitchen window. D took out window seats and 1 embraisure; all eaten by bugs and cemented; re-fashioning new pieces and replaced wood. D also finished bathroom cupboard in inside window to replace modern cabinet.March 29th while B was clearing out bramble patch for new location of trash burner, two women stopped about half hour apart to admire—aristocratic Mrs. Firestone and brassy little Mrs. Garbaga.

April 4, 1958 New neighbors (Purchase) became exigent. They had been Betticino. renovating inside of house, now laid red sidewalk along back and side. Older boy was tough and challenging. 4/5 Monahans ripped out all of Mrs. Herbst's big bushes at back—said they were old and no good any more. Mrs. Monahan confided to B she was going to put imitation cyclone fence around back of property to keep people from going through. D & B took down damaged tree in back yard.

Leaf burning of last fall stood in good stead in spring clean-up. B applied bone meal which she had previously had to do in June. Seemed finally to have beaten pigeons on bird feeding stations by bars. In big snow many redwing blackbirds came. Week-end of March 29 hairy woodpecker. Now chickadees, titmouse, and junco as well as cardinal and sparrows, regular customers.

*** March 5 and March 19, 1958 Zoning hearing at City Hall in which residents stopped use of area adjacent to park for construction company (Armand Lembo)

Spring 1958 April: as the Purcells expanded more and more; building an outsized porch with jalousies and draining all their roof water into one big drain which stopped a few inches below the surface ten feet from our line, B phoned the building inspection department at City Hall to ask if this were legal. On the first call the BID said they had no permit. On the second, said that they now had the permit and would have to wait and see whether the run-off flooded onto our property. By this time B had given up but Mrs. P. Had not.

One day when B and D were out viewing the shrubs, urging them on to grow, Mrs. P. accosted B and made the accusation that B had complained about her at City Hall. B readily admitted she had "inquired". Mrs. P. said that what she did on her property was her business. B said it was hers if it affected her property. Mrs. P. went on at some length in screeching tones about how many of her relatives were teachers; that she had lived in all kinds of neighborhoods and never been treated so badly; that B should have welcomed her to the neighborhood; that B could wish she had as much influence at City Hall as Mrs. P. had, etc.

During this time B was bowing from the waist, saying nothing. Finally when Mrs. P. said that she was going after Mrs. Lozito, because she knew she was one of the three complainants, B begged her not to go around quarrelling with her neighbors. Mrs. P. averred that this could

Spring 1958 continued: result in their being the best of friends as it had happened before. B replied that Mrs. P should mind her business and B would mind hers. At this point, Mrs. P. visibly faded, took off in the direction of Lozito's house and D called B to come to answer a non-existent phone call. B went in, phoned Mrs. Lozito to advise her to keep a stiff back, that she had already admitted to asking about the developments at BID. Mrs. L said she "didn't like the way Mrs. P. talked to her", that she kept telling her how much money she had, etc. This conversation was interrupted by Mrs. L's doorbell since Mrs. P. had arrived for her harangue.
~~XX~~

As weeks went by the Ps installed a blast furnace next to the property line apparently for the purpose of viewing happenings in our yard while roasting wienies, since the older boy frequently stood staring into our yard. The next development was a stone table and benches in the middle of the yard under the cherry tree. Although Mrs. P. had vociferated about "landscaping" and improving the neighborhood, they planted no shrubs. They installed a bright red and white metal awning over the back door. In cold weather they entertained company in the basement with entrance through the back door, lighted by two floodlights, one of which shone directly into young Carl Lozito's bedroom. In warm weather they held forth on the open porch with tv blasting out into the neighborhood. In July there were weeks of quiet when it was apparent Mrs. P. was not there. B suggested to Abby and Mrs. Herbst that Mrs. P. had had a mental breakdown and was in a mental hospital. Both demurred, saying she had gone for a visit. Finally Mrs. Herbst asked neighbor Olga where Mrs. P. was and was told she was in the "bobby hatch."

During Spring vacation, fourth week of April, the second big assortment of bushes and some fruit trees, arrived from White Flower Farms. B installed as many as she could and D put in the bigger ones. This just about completed the double row of bushes long the front exposure; with apple, cherry, pear, blueberry, red and yellow raspberries in the vicinity of the blackberry patch. Narcissi which had been planted around the phlox bed were very satisfactory. Lawn mowing started 4/19 but the weather was so cold and wet that B couldn't plant the first of vegetable and flower seeds until 5/10. D was digging out second part of back basement and first part of front basement to lay cement floor, most of the summer. D made spice cabinet for kitchen wall according to measurements B had made of necessary shelving.

School Social Workers came 6/10, so cold and wet B had four fireplaces going; and D's office party was 8/23. The grounds were really beginning to look nice. On 7/12 D and B visited the old houses open house at Hurley NY, and as before at Chatham came home with a real sense of satisfaction that we had more authenticity and were going to be able to keep it as we progressed with the restoration.

Fall 1958 The first week of August the plumber began to install the new bathroom in place of the old one. This extended and was not fully completed for about two weeks with the final fittings in place by Labor Day. During this operation D worked with Eddie, trying to keep ahead of him so as to avoid some of the damage which he would have done if left alone. D installed a new floor, being able to salvage some of the wide boards so that the new floor concealed the pipes and the floor was level with the hall instead of the step-down which was there before.

Mrs. Herbst removed to California 9/5 since the Goodes were getting more and more impossible. After that B's information about goings-on in DeGraw Avenue was completely cut off. However, in the Spring the McKeely's had given us one solid walnut table; and in August they gave us another, some kitchen chairs, an extra chair and some ancient hinges.

Fall 1958
continued

In the Spring B started phoning lawyer Cashion at regular intervals about the possibility of buying 25 feet of the Sommer property abutting ours. One day in late June she observed that neighbor children were going down into the basement through the door which had been left open during one of the inspections. Kathryn Sommer came around to lock it while B was burning branches in the newly located trash burner in the bramble patch. She thanked B for advising her of the open door. B invited her in for tea and showed her around the first floor of the house. K mentioned that Cashion had said B wanted to buy the 25 feet but did not commit herself.

Several days a busy little woman Mrs. Setticino came by and told of how she would like to buy the lot next to ours and build a house facing our back door, whereupon she would sit and look at our house all day. It was about this time that Cashion advised B in one of her calls that they were going to sell the house with only the ground immediately around it, leaving 50 feet at the back and the lot on the side along Heller. At this point D wrote to Cashion 8/31 an offer of \$900 for the 50 by 75 next to our property.

By this time Cashion was complaining of the inability of "his folks" to make up their minds what they wanted to do. In mid-November, the house was finally sold to Giacobbe, a year after Abby and George had moved out, we had new neighbors. On 12/16 Mr. Cashion advised that he was waiting to hear from Mr. Giacobbe as to whether he wanted 25 feet next to him. If not we could buy the whole 50; otherwise the 25 and he would write us a letter. This was the most positive statement we had yet had.

In late July B made white linen curtains for the two front bedrooms. D and B shifted furniture. So that by the second week of August we had two guest rooms which were habitable. On Sept. week-ends B worked on the four outside doors and two basement doors, painting them white on the outside, cleaning and refurbishing hardware. D extended upward the back rose fence and outward the grape arbor and B painted those red. D also made a cover for the well which B painted red. As the weather became colder D burned the leaves in preparation for winter.

In August B had finished trimming the paint on the first floor windows and re-painting sills. In December D spent his week-ends taking plaster off the girls' room in preparation for more plastering by Mr. Mitchke. D phoned him saying we would be ready for more plastering the last of January and, to our delight, he agreed. Zucchini and winter squash did exceptionally well and lasted in the pantry through late November. Grapes were prolific. Tomatoes did very little at all. On 12/6 we purchased our first big piece of authentic furniture, a Shaker settle at Booth's Antiques in NYC for \$175, to be delivered during the Christmas holidays. It was to take the place of the big davenport which had been an eyesore there from the beginning. For this D made a coffee table from a wide board and some of the bannister spools farnered from #48 N. Walnut Street just before it was demolished. At that time B had on 7/16 taken out windows for the old glass. Pieces of parlor carpeting was good enough to be cleaned, bound and laid in sitting room as rugs.

One day in late July Mrs. Errett came to see the house. Later she brought over resource books, copies of which we subsequently bought. One, the Richard Pratt second treasury, was only secured after some correspondence with the author and a search through the book finding companies by Posts. B wrote the National Trust about taking the house, only to be told it would have to be endowed. D reestablished the bird feeding stations 12/6. Pigeons soon found it to our disgust. Other customer were downy woodpecker, sparrows, juncos. By mid-December all the outside work was done: salt hay on the strawberries and other low-growing perennials, fertilizer in the annual beds, some of the ground turned up, trash burner stored in basement. Mrs. Ruggiero's dog on the loose could no longer dig in the ground which was frozen solid.
